



# NEWSLETTER

## EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 19 No. 1 Summer 2004

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Robert Wuthnow, Princeton University

The theme for the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society on March 17-20, 2005, at the Wyndham Hotel in Washington, D.C., is Sociology and Public Policy. The relationship between our discipline and public policy is important for us to consider as we reflect on where sociology has come since 1930 (and before) and on where it is headed in this first decade of the twenty-first century. The early vision of sociology as a cumulative academic enterprise—a puzzle-solving, theory-building science—still prevails in some quarters. However, much of what sociologists do today focuses on identifying social problems that need to be addressed through public policy.

The current emphasis on policy relevance nevertheless raises a host of questions: What should be the relationship between theory building and problem solving? How do normative commitments intersect with empirical research? Which social problems are best addressed through public policy and which ones require other approaches. Do sociologists understand the policy process well enough to offer credible proposals? These are questions that run through the various substantive topics with which sociologists are concerned—whether the topic is inequality, race, aging, adolescence, or health. Most of these topics have policy implications.

Consider the relevance of sociology to such practical concerns as education policy, health policy, employment and economic policy, and immigration policy, for instance. Or the policy concerns raised by such topics as race, gender, sexual orientation, poverty, domestic abuse, religious violence, and globalization. In all of these areas, those of us who teach and do research are constantly forced to ask ourselves the “so what” questions: why does what

we do matter? It may be that we are accumulating wisdom, like physicists, that will one day result in laws of human behavior. It may be that we are essentially collecting information that future generations of historians will use to create narratives about our time. But, chances are, the students we teach or the sources from which we seek funding will want to know if there are also implications for the practical improvement of our lives. And for those in our discipline who work outside the academy in government, nonprofit organizations, or other settings, it is certainly the case that the policy relevance of sociological inquiry matters.

I pose these questions contentiously. Of course there is room for many epistemologies and many styles of inquiry. Our discipline is diverse in that way. But large numbers of sociologists do work in policy settings. Fewer, it seems, have the luxury to write about topics simply from intellectual curiosity. The major grant makers want to know why our research will be of interest to the wider public and how it will affect people’s lives. More departments are dependent on the funding and staff that flow into them from public policy schools and specialized research institutes. Are these changes only to be celebrated? Or are there costs?

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My hope for the 2005 Annual Meeting is that we can find ways to address these important questions about the changing focus of our discipline. The venues for doing this will vary. Much of the discussion will occur through the interesting papers, panels, and roundtables that we have all come to appreciate in recent years. Being in Washington, we also hope to enlist the participation of scholars who work in policy institutes and on Capitol Hill. We want to engage in serious discussion. We also want to commemorate our diamond jubilee by celebrating the past and looking forward to the future. The goal is nothing short of continuing the high quality of intellectual reflection and collegiality for which the Eastern Sociological Society is known. With all of your help, this will happen. I welcome your ideas and suggestions.

## Introducing President Robert Wuthnow

**Robert Wuthnow** was interviewed by **Gustav Niebuhr**,  
Syracuse University and formerly of *The New York Times*

**GN:** *Tell us a little about your background: Are you geographically an Easterner by upbringing?*

**RW:** I usually tell people I grew up in the “midwest” and then say “Kansas” if they ask where. Hardly anybody I knew went to college and those who did never thought of leaving the state. But after college I lived for a decade in Colorado, California, and Arizona, so became quite enthralled with the western and southwestern United States. Having taught at Princeton now for more than 25 years, I consider New Jersey my home.

**GN:** *What led you to choose sociology as a discipline?*

**RW:** I didn’t major in sociology and, in fact, had an absolutely terrible, boring Introductory Sociology class as an undergraduate. I thought seriously about economics and psychology, but simply found the subject matter in sociology more appealing. By the time I graduated, I decided to see if I could get into sociology as a grad student and felt very fortunate when Berkeley accepted me. Still, though, it never ceases to amaze me that I have been able to find steady work—and an “indoor” job, at that.



**GN:** *What is it about the sociology of religion that you have found particularly compelling?*

**RW:** Sociology of religion was not my first interest. I went to graduate school thinking I would specialize in the study of organizations, actually spent most of my time studying race and prejudice, and only decided at the last moment to write a dissertation about religion. I continue to have a lot of other interests. But religion is an extremely important dimension of our society—for good or for ill—and research is the best way I know to help students and the wider public gain a clearer understanding of it.

**GN:** *Your recent work on American Protestants produced findings that really cut against the conventional wisdom. Would you tell us how?*

**RW:** Most observers of American religion think liberal Protestantism is dead and that all the action has shifted to conservative evangelicals. The truth is more complex. Some 22 million Americans still identify themselves as mainline Protestants and many of these members care about the same issues of equality and social justice that concern sociologists. Membership in these denominations has also stabilized, while the earlier growth in conservative denominations is no longer evident.

**GN:** *You are often called upon by reporters to speak about trends in American religion. Do you think there's enough of a value in sociologists discussing*

*their work publicly that you would encourage others to speak to the news media?*

**RW:** Sociologists definitely have a responsibility to speak to the news media. Many of us do. And it is vexing that journalists so often get the story wrong or see trends where there are none. But I think sociologists also benefit from interacting with journalists. It encourages us to think harder about the significance of our work (and sometimes to write better).

**GN:** *What plans do you have for the ESS meetings in 2005?*

**RW:** Two things are very exciting about our meetings in 2005. One is that the meetings are in Washington, D.C. Our theme of "Sociology and Public Policy" is meant to throw the spotlight on the relevance of our teaching and research to the wider public and to policy makers. The other is that the ESS will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We plan to mark this occasion by inviting speakers to reflect on what we have accomplished as a discipline and where we are headed.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### 2005 EASTERN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS

**Wyndham Hotel  
Washington, D.C.  
March 17-20, 2005**

**Theme: *Sociology and Public Policy***

Sociology has been concerned with public policy from the beginning (think of the public roles Marx, Weber, and Durkheim played). In recent years, our discipline has increasingly been drawn into the policy arena. Sociologists testify on Capitol Hill, appear on television news programs dealing with policy issues, apply for research grants that require a statement about the policy relevance of their projects, teach in public policy schools, work in

policy institutes, and train students who will enter careers in which public policy is directly relevant. At one time, it was common to think of sociology as a "pure" science, quite different from, say, social work or other professions. Are we becoming a more applied discipline now, a practical profession more than a purely academic one? These questions go to the heart of why we find it meaningful to work as sociologists. Are we contributing to scientific knowledge? Making the world better? Amusing ourselves? Or what? We need to reflect on these larger questions. We also need to focus on what we do know and have to offer in such important areas as inequality and poverty, family policy, education policy, health policy, immigration policy, and on many other important topics of practical concern.

Submissions on all sociological topics are welcome, and we are eager to have them in such varied forms as:

- Individual papers (please provide one-page abstracts; longer drafts are also welcome)
- Wholly constituted sessions (with names and affiliations of all presenters)
- Thematic forums (panels of two or more scholars engaged in debate or exchange)
- Author-meets-critics sessions (please identify all participants)
- Workshops on specific topics and techniques (indicate the expert in charge)
- Conversations, Q&A sessions, or master classes (featuring a prominent scholar)
- Round-table and poster-session presentations

All submissions must include all identifying information for all participants, including telephone number, complete mailing address, and email address. The submission deadline will be **November 1, 2004**.

Details about electronic submission will be posted in the next ESS newsletter, will be announced on the ESS Announce List, and will be available at the ESS website: <http://www.essnet.org>. In the meantime, please send any ideas or suggestions for papers, sessions, or other ideas about the 2005 ESS program to Program Chair, Tim Clydesdale: <mailto:ess2005@tcnj.edu>

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Nominations Committee is seeking suggestions for nominees for the following offices to be voted on this fall: President-Elect, Vice-President-Elect, Secretary and two members of the Executive Committee (each of whom will serve three-year terms). When suggesting a candidate, please provide your name and contact information as well as that of the person you are recommending and please indicate the office for which the person would be a good candidate. (Please remember that this does not guarantee that your suggested person will actually be chosen to run for an office as we receive more suggestions than the slate needed.) Suggestions should be sent by July 1, 2004, to the committee chair: **Nancy A. Denton**, Department of Sociology AS 351, University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, NY 12222; [n.denton@albany.edu](mailto:n.denton@albany.edu).

## THE ROSE LAUB COSER AWARD

The recipient of the Rose Laub Coser Award for 2004 was **Lauren Rauscher** of Emory University with honorable mention to **Natalia Karkisian** of the University of Massachusetts – Amherst.

The Rose Laub Coser Award Committee invites submissions for this award, given annually to a graduate student for an outstanding doctoral dissertation proposal in the area of the family or gender and society. The award was established by the family, friends, and former students of the late Rose Coser, a former president of ESS and recipient of its Merit Award. To be eligible for consideration, the proposal must have been approved by the student's department prior to submission, and the dissertation cannot have been completed or published when the proposal is considered. Proposals should include:

- (1) a cover sheet indicating the title of the dissertation, the student's name, the university with which the student is affiliated, and the names of the doctoral committee members;
- (2) a two-page summary or abstract of the proposal;
- (3) a narrative, which should include a statement of the problem to be addressed in the

dissertation, a justification of the importance of the research problem for the field, a description of the methods to be employed in the study, and a statement of the anticipated outcomes and their significance; the narrative must not exceed 15 double-spaced pages (excluding references).

Ancillary material such as budgets, work schedules, and human subjects review documentation should not be included. A special session will be held at the annual meeting during which award winners will have the opportunity to present their work. The 2005 Annual Meeting will be held March 17-20, 2005, at the Wyndham Washington DC Hotel.

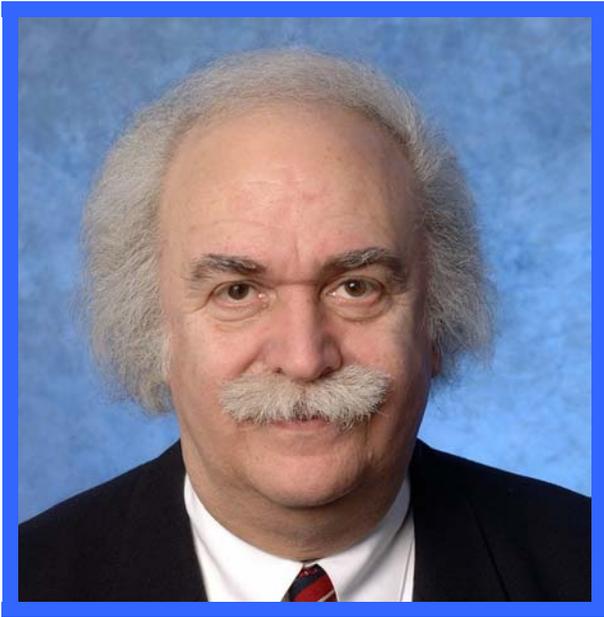
Eligible students are encouraged to submit four copies of their proposal by the deadline of October 15, 2004 to the committee chair:

### Professor Nancy Naples

Department of Sociology  
University of Connecticut  
344 Manchester Road, Unit 2068  
Storrs, CT 06269-2068.  
Phone: 860-486-3049.  
Fax: 860-486-6356  
[Nancy.Naples@uconn.edu](mailto:Nancy.Naples@uconn.edu)

## ROBIN M. WILLIAMS, JR. LECTURESHIP 2002-2003

**Jack Levin**, the Brudnick Professor of Sociology and Criminology at Northeastern University, has been selected as the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Distinguished Lecturer for 2004-2005. He received the award in recognition of his outstanding scholarship in the study of hate and violence. Dr. Levin's work has been instrumental in creating and developing the area of study we call hate crimes. His pioneering research on mass murder and those who commit such crimes has led to many works, both popular and scholarly. Dr. Levin has been a major force in disseminating the findings of sociology and criminology to the general public, as well as to international opinion leaders. He has appeared frequently on national television programs and network newscasts, has been cited extensively by journalists around the world and has written numerous opinion columns for major newspapers.



Taken from his latest book entitled *Why We Hate*, Dr. Levin's lecture topic will be "Ordinary People; Extraordinary Courage." The lecture will focus on the social sources of good Samaritans and on what ordinary individuals can do to reduce hate crimes and inter-group violence. **Jack Levin** is an

extraordinary speaker. He has won several awards for his outstanding teaching and is a speaker much in demand. His talk should be of interest to faculty and students in sociology, criminal justice, as well as other related disciplines.

Dr. Levin received his MA in 1965 and his Ph.D. in 1968 from Boston University. He has written 25 books including *The Violence of Hate: Confronting Racism and Anti-Semitism*, *Hate Crimes Revisited*, *Mass Murder: America's Growing Menace*, *The Will to Kill*, *The Functions of Prejudice*, and *Overkill: Mass Murder and Serial Killing Exposed*. He has given numerous keynote addresses to community, college, and professional groups including the White House Conference on Hate Crimes, International Association of Chiefs of Police, Dallas Woman's Club, and the International Hate Crimes Conference in Nottingham, England. Dr. Levin currently directs the Brudnick Center on Violence and Conflict at Northeastern University. He has been named the CASE Professor of the Year in Massachusetts and a recipient of Northeastern University's Teaching Excellence Award.

## HOW TO BRING THE ROBIN M. WILLIAMS LECTURER TO YOUR CAMPUS

All ESS Colleges and Institutions are eligible to apply for a campus visit and lecture from Dr. Levin. The ESS will cover travel expenses, and the host institution will furnish food, lodging and hospitality expenses. Applicants to host the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship should offer clear and thoughtful proposals, detailing a plan for the event (e.g., the extent to which the lecture is part of a larger academic project, the intended audience, and expected outcomes). As this is a competitive proposal, it is advisable to describe clearly the intended audience with specific levels and fields (e.g. undergraduate or graduate students from sociology or from a variety of disciplines, and/or the general public outside of the college/university communities). Colleges and Universities with fewer resources and therefore less able to afford to bring such distinguished professors to campus will be given preference. Applications must be submitted by **November 1, 2004**. They should be mailed to **Professor Debra Renee Kaufman**, Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology, Northeastern University, 515 Holmes, 360 Huntington Avenue.

Boston, Ma. 02115 (Phone: 617 373 4270; Fax: 617 373 2688) and sent via email with the proposal in an attached file: [dkaufman@neu.edu](mailto:dkaufman@neu.edu).

## Nominations Invited for R. M. Williams Lectureship, 2005-2006

The Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship Committee invites the names of leading scholars to be considered for appointment as the 2005-2006 Robin M. Williams, Jr. lecturer. The Eastern Sociological Society established the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship in 1992 to honor the many contributions of Robin Williams to the discipline and the Society, particularly as founding editor of its journal, *Sociological Forum*, now in its 19th year. The original announcement states:

As part of the Society's attempt to enhance the sharing of ideas, one of our colleagues will be invited to spend time and give lectures on two or three campuses within the Society's jurisdiction during his or her year as Williams lecturer. The Executive Office will provide transportation and honoraria: the host institution will take care of local arrangements, bed and board.

The individual chosen for the lectureship will receive an honorarium and will present two lectures

on campuses in the ESS region during the terms of his or her appointment. (These campuses will be selected on a competitive basis.) The lecturer will attend the 2005 ESS Annual meeting to receive the lectureship award at the Awards Ceremony and Presidential Address, and will also present his or her lecture at the 2006 ESS Annual Meeting. In 2005, the annual meeting will be in Washington D.C. from March 17-21.

Please send nominations in a letter detailing the reasons for the nomination along with supporting letters by **November 1, 2004** to the Robin M. Williams, Jr. Lectureship Committee Chair: **Professor Karen A. Cerulo**, Department of Sociology, Rutgers University, 343 Spruce Avenue, Garwood, NJ 07027. Phone: 908 317-9727 Fax: 908-317-9727. <mailto:cerulo@rci.rutgers.edu>

## The Mirra Komarovsky Book Award

In **2004**, two authors received a Mirra Komarovsky Book Award: **Sara Babb** for *Managing Mexico: Economists from Nationalism to Neoliberalism* and **Harvey Molotch** for *Where Stuff Comes From: How Toasters, Toilets, Cars, Computers, and Many Other Things Come to Be As They Are*.

For the 2005 award, the ESS welcomes nominations of outstanding scholarly books in sociology for the Mirra Komarovsky Book Award. Books on any sociological subject are eligible. To be eligible for consideration, a book must have been published during the three years ending March 2005, and at least one of its authors must be an ESS member. Self-nominations are accepted. Nominations submitted by publishers alone, however, will not be considered. In 2005, the annual meeting will be held March 17-20 at the Wyndham Washington DC Hotel. The award will be announced and presented at a special session. Nominators and/or authors are responsible for arranging review copies to be sent to committee members. Nominations should provide full publication information (including date of publication) and a brief rationale for the nomination, and should be sent by **October 1, 2004** to:

Mirra Komarovsky Book Award Committee  
c/o Eastern Sociological Society  
Department of Sociology  
William Paterson University  
300 Pompton Road  
Wayne, NJ 07470  
973-720-3689

<mailto:ess@wpunj.edu>

The committee is chaired by Jeff Goodwin

<mailto:jeff.goodwin@nyu.edu>

## The Candace Rogers Award

The winner of the Candace Rogers Award for **2004** was **Nicole Esparza** of Princeton University.

Submissions are invited for the 2005 Candace Rogers Award, which is given annually at the ESS meeting to a graduate student for an outstanding paper on any current social issue. The paper should be in a style suitable for journal publication and should not exceed 7,500 words or 30 double-spaced pages. The paper may not be previously published or forthcoming in a professional journal. It must be sole-authored and the author must be a graduate student at the time of submission and a member of ESS at the time the award is made. During a special session at the 2005 annual meeting, all award winners will have an opportunity to present their work (the 2005 meeting is March 17-20 at The Wyndham Washington DC Hotel).

Eligible students are encouraged to submit three hard copies or an electronic version of their paper no later than **November 15, 2004**, to the committee chair: **Sarah Rosenfield**

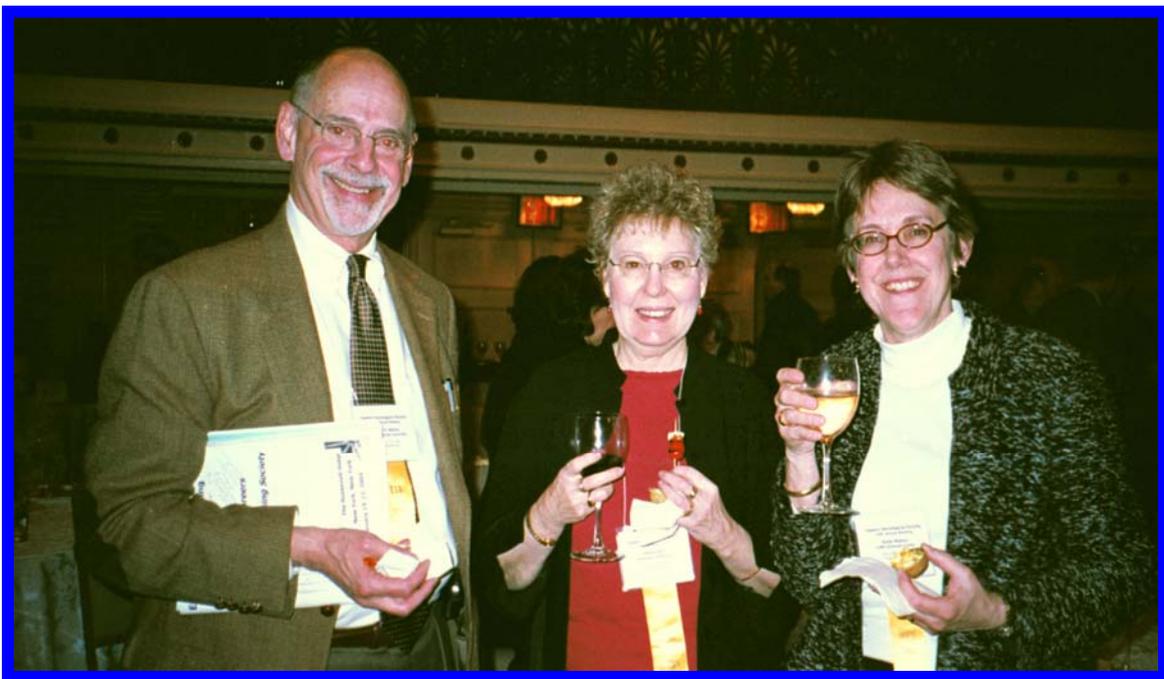
Department of Sociology  
Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and  
Aging Research  
30 College Avenue  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903  
e-mail: [slrosen@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:slrosen@rci.rutgers.edu)

Students should include their address, institutional affiliation, phone number, and e-mail address with their submission.

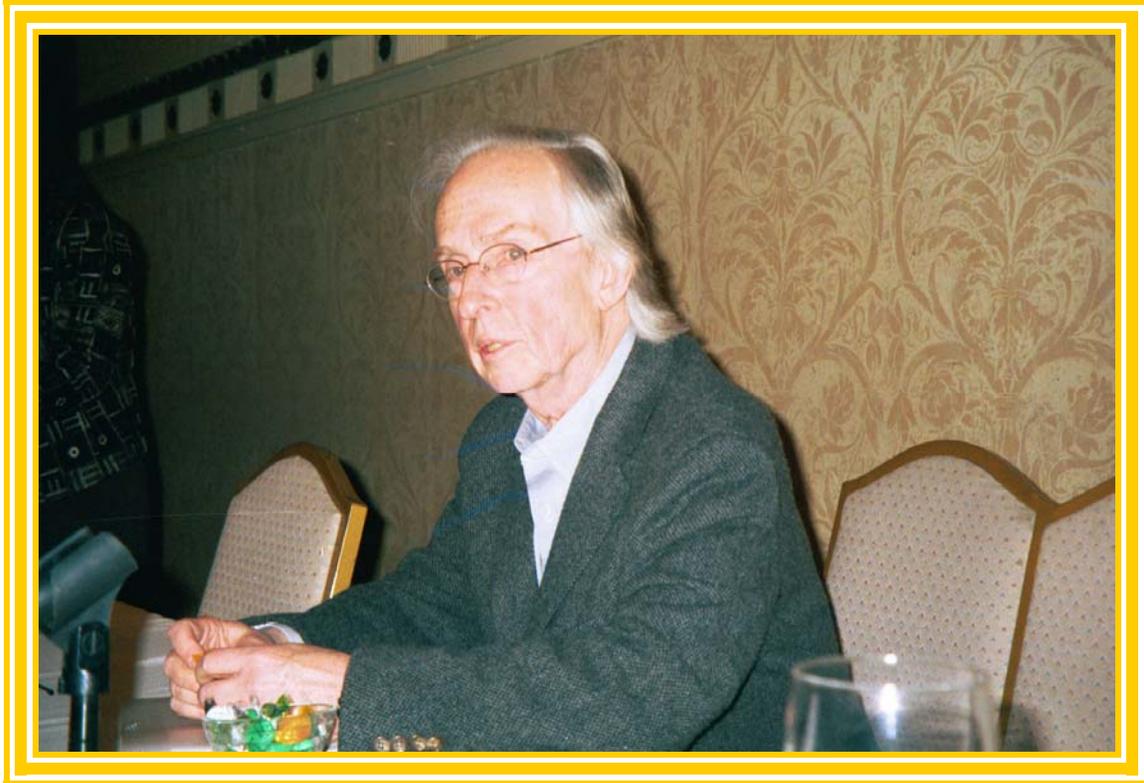
## **SCENES FROM THE 2004 MEETING IN NYC**



*President Phyllis Moen*



*Executive Officer Jim Mahon, President Phyllis Moen, and Emily Mahon*



*Keynote Speaker Howard Becker*



*Former ESS Presidents Richard Alba and Carolyn Persell*



*Staffing the Registration Desk*



*Poster Exhibits*



*The Friday Gala*



*Books, Books, Books*

## Headline News from the 2004 ESS Meeting

### James Mahon, Executive Officer

For its 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, the Eastern Sociological Society returned to New York City after a long absence, and the reunion was a most successful one. The Roosevelt Hotel was the site of the 2004 conference held February 19-22 and it was filled to capacity with over 1000 sociologists not just from the eastern region but from all over the world. Over 220 sessions were held centering around the conference theme: "Rethinking Careers for a Changing Society" with speakers including **Howard Becker, George Ritzer, Margaret Archer, Stanley Aronowitz, Catherine Hakim, Alan Wolf, Amitai Etzioni, Cynthia Fuchs Epstein**..... and the list goes on.

The Plenary Sessions formed the core of the conference, honoring achievement and stimulating further thought -- and offering all the opportunity to meet, greet and celebrate with their colleagues. On Thursday, a distinguished panel on "Celebrating Careers: Teaching and the Sociological Imagination" was convened by **Margaret Andersen** of the University of Delaware and included **Caroline Persell, Peter Stein, Jeffrey Davidson, Joan Spade, and Carla Howery**. A New York-style reception complete with street pretzels followed. On Friday, the 2004 ESS awards were presented in a session chaired by ESS Vice President **Ronald Taylor**. Committee Chairs **Barrett Lee** and **Christine Himes** presented the Candace Rogers Award to **Nicole Esparza** of Princeton University. **Ronald Taylor** acknowledged the work of **Elizabeth Higginbotham**, the 2003-2004 Robin Williams, Jr., Lecturer, and **Debra Kaufman** (ESS Vice President-Elect) announced that **Jack Levin** of Northeastern University would be the Lecturer for 2004-2005. The Rose Laub Coser Award was presented to **Lauren Rauscher** of Emory University by **Mary Ruggie** of Harvard University who chaired the award committee. **Natalia Karkisian** of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst was given Honorable Mention. In an unusual move, two Mirra Komarovsky Book Awards were given. **Magali Larson** of Temple University, the committee chair, presented plaques to both **Sarah Babb** (*Managing Mexico*) and **Harvey Molotch** (*Where Stuff Comes From*). To conclude the awards session, **Maggie Andersen** presented the ESS Merit Award to **Cynthia Fuchs Epstein** of the CUNY Graduate

Center. In the Presidential Address that followed, **Phyllis Moen** of the University of Minnesota talked about "Integrative Careers: Time In, Time Out, and Second Acts." Friday's events were closed with a reception offering live music where sociologists ranging in age from 3 to ?? tried out the dance floor. The Saturday Plenary featured **Howard Becker** who presented the Keynote Address on "Careers." During the reception that followed, colleagues had a chance to catch their collective breath and mull over the events of the conference.

The conference offered thematic sessions ranging from "The Time Squeeze" to "The Disposable Worker" to "Careers in a Changing Global Economic and Policy Environment." The thematic sessions formed the core of the international research and policy forum "Sustainable Careers: New Options for a New Workforce" which was sponsored by the Cornell Careers Institute and the Life Course Centers at Cornell University and the University of Minnesota as well as the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. An additional series of sessions on "Sociologists Careers" offered topics such as "Alternative Sociological Careers," "Teaching as a Calling," and "Outside the Academy" with many of the talks drawing SRO crowds. Two other mini-conferences were also nested in this year's conference: "Military Sociology" and "Higher Education," both of which drew notable speakers and participants from the US and abroad.

As always, the Author Meets Critics sessions were well attended and featured ESS authors like **Richard Alba, Victor Nee, Mary Blair-Loy, Jerry Jacobs** and **Kathleen Gerson** just to mention a few. The ESS Book Exhibit, the largest in several years, prominently featured these and other ESS authors in their displays and promotions. Workshops on a variety of Best Teaching Practices were offered as well -- "Aging," "Gender" "Research Methods," "Sociology of the Family," "Data Analysis" and many more. A new series of "Interest Group" sessions were offered in set time slots on both Friday and Saturday when colleagues intrigued by topics like teaching genocide, war and peace, adjunct teaching, empire and community could gather to share insights and approaches in an informal setting.

The 2004 Annual Meeting also paid particular attention to student members. There were a series of sessions highlighted in the program that were of special interest to graduate students -- workshops, career discussions, survival techniques. The Committee on the Status of Women also sponsored two sessions dealing with having children in graduate school and the Committee on Graduate Education offered four sessions dealing with career decisions and student challenges. Friday was a day for Undergraduates with an impressive exhibit of over 30 posters installed just off the main hallway.

A pair of unusual sociological tours complemented the conference. The first was a boat tour around Manhattan guided by **William Kornblum** of the CUNY Graduate Center and the author of the recent book *At Sea in the City*. The second toured Ground Zero and its surroundings led by **Phil Kasinitz** and **Sharon Zukin** of the CUNY Graduate Center and **Greg Smithsimon** of Columbia University. All who participated were grateful to these tour guides who volunteered their time and expertise to make the conference that much more memorable.

On the final day of the conference, the membership convened for the Breakfast Business Meeting where they were brought up to date on new directions and the financial strength of the organization. The meeting concluded with the hand off of the gavel from **Phyllis Moen** to **Robert Wuthnow** of Princeton University, the 2004-2005 President. He and the new slate of officers are already well underway in their planning for "Sociology and Public Policy" March 17-20, 2005, at the Wyndham Washington DC Hotel.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The ESS Membership Committee met in Atlanta on August 18, 2003. The recommendations we produced were presented by Laura Kramer at the September meeting of the ESS Executive Committee in New York. Below are the recommendations we made.

#### Membership Committee:

- Produce a short piece on the attractions of membership in ESS and attendance at regional meetings. Individuals who are connected to related professional associations should edit the piece as appropriate for posting on other organizations' e-lists or in newsletters.

- Contact leaders of organizations that are reputed to be successful at maintaining/developing high membership/attendance in search of useful tactics.
- Create and make available to ESS leadership a single file about membership committee work, to improve the continuity of membership development from one committee's term to another.
- Develop a "five year plan" for membership development.

**Executive Office** (we realized some of this might already be in the works) An all-out campaign to increase membership by the following:

- Graduate program directors should be targeted to get the word out about useful sessions for their students, and all other features of the meeting that will be designed to attract students.
- Make sure that ESS materials brought to all related professional meetings – for example, ASA, SSSR, SSSP, SSSS, SWS, ABS, and state associations.
- Continue the move toward electronic renewal
- Broaden outreach to members who have let their membership lapse - consider going back several years, using email
- Continue the pursuit of department memberships

#### Officers/Executive Committee

Explore changes in dues structure - some of these may have been used by us in the past, or by our related societies. The reasons for dropping them may deserve reexamination

- Rate for former members who now live outside the region?
- Multiyear membership w/ slight discount?
- Early bird discount (maybe \$5 lower)?
- Discount for combining membership and registration?
- Discount for members of state associations - or a combined membership?
- Student rate for the first year after leaving school (including for people who have moved INTO the region; target through department chairs)?
- Explore possible cooperation with state associations

- Identify a means to improve communication between the membership committee, the executive office, and the executive committee, so the membership committee can be more effectively used.

### **Long Term Issues to Consider/Explore - Officers, Executive Committee**

- Improve annual meetings - explore what people want changed
- Wrestle with the move toward a larger proportion of student events - we want a student-friendly event but we don't want the non-students to stop attending
- Create some kind of grad student matching program, which would involve a positive opportunity for collegial interaction outside the formal sessions
- Establish a mentoring program (junior faculty, nonacademic sociologists)

Find ways (outside those only accessible to members) to publicize the excellent changes made in recent years, as well as plans for the future Submitted by Laura Kramer, chair.

Members: Susan Farrell, Charley Flint, Duane Matcha, Roberta Spalter-Roth, and Julia Wrigley

### **Eastern Sociological Society Business Meeting, Sunday February 22, 2004: Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 8.15am. by P. Moen. 27 people were in attendance. P. Moen thanked K. Esterberg and D. Dempster-McClain for their work in organizing the conference program and she also thanked the members responsible for the local arrangements. She also thanked C. Gilkes and D. Lemke, outgoing members of the ESS Council for their outstanding contributions to ESS. Moen noted that today was the 24<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of L. and E. Mahon and congratulated them.

The Chair of the Program Committee thanked all of her committee members for their hard work.

R. Wuthnow announced the results of the 04/05 election and the members of the nominations committee. R. Wuthnow also reminded members that the 2005 conference is scheduled to take place in Washington, D.C.

J. Mahon provided a comprehensive report on the Society's budget and finances and the trends in

membership and expenses from 2002 to 2004 (see Appendix). Among the points he highlighted was the significant increase in the number of registered participants at this year's conference, the improvements to the website, and the success of the employment program. J. Mahon also emphasized the need for the ESS to take proactive steps to protect the Society from financial difficulties.

C. Renzetti thanked J. and E. Mahon for all of their help in making her job as Treasurer easy.

P. Moen commented, "on a sad note," that with the current search for a new Executive Officer the Society would have only one more year of service from J. and E. Mahon in the Executive Office and she thanked them for the dedicated and fabulous job they have done for ESS.

Moen thanked the Graduate Education and Undergraduate Education Committees for their work.

L. Kramer reported for the Membership Committee. The Committee recommended that in order to insure better communication of ideas and strategies the Chair of the Membership Committee should either be on the Executive Committee or else the chair should be chosen from the Executive Committee.

Nancy Denton thanked the members of the Graduate Education Committee for their service.

C. Gilkes reported for the Committee on the Status of Minorities. Two members of the Committee and a concerned ESS member met during the conference and on the basis of their discussion they highlighted six areas of concern that need to be address by ESS: (i) Tenure and Promotion—the impact of changing standards and job structures; (ii) The problem of diversity initiatives on college campuses and the impact on minority faculty including an increased workload; (iii) Racial-ethnic ignorance in classroom teaching through stereotypes; (iv) Curricular issues around diversity; (v) New problems since 9/11 associated with international faculty and students—exacerbation of stereotypes; (vi) The impact of budget cuts on programs supporting minority students; (vii) Special problems faced by academics who are African immigrants; (viii) Minority graduate students ability to participate in meetings and other issues affecting their education.

P. Moen expressed thanks for all of the reports. She then handed the gavel over to incoming President, R. Wuthnow.

R. Wuthnow asked people to think about next year's meeting at the Wyndham Hotel in Washington D.C., March 17-20. He emphasized his hope that the theme of "sociology and public policy" would engage policy makers working in D.C. area. He encouraged members to think of the various substantive topics that could be included in the program and invited them to suggest ideas, topics, themes, and sessions to the Program Chair, T. Clydesdale, whom he said was a brilliant organizer and that he too welcomed members' input. R. Wuthnow thanked P. Moen for the wonderful job she has done as ESS President and for all of the service she has given to the Society.

**New business:** P. Moen thanked J. Miller for all of her extensive work on behalf of the ESS; this was seconded by J. Mahon, who expressed his appreciation for the way J. Miller facilitated his transition to the Executive Office.

D. Kaufman suggested that because 2005 would be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society that we should make something big out of this important milestone. R. Wuthnow suggested that we should think about having a banquet at which we would honor previous presidents and encourage their students and other members to attend.

R. Wuthnow adjourned the meeting at 8.55am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele Dillon*, Secretary

**Eastern Sociological Society  
Executive Committee Meeting Sunday,  
February 22, 2004**

**Minutes**

R. Wuthnow called the meeting to order at 12.20pm. Members present: **R. Wuthnow, P. Moen, R. Hertz, C. Renzetti, F. Polletta, D. Kaufman, R. Taylor, S. Rosenfield, K. Cerulo, M. Dillon, E. Mahon, J. Mahon, T. Clydesdale, B. Lee, N. Denton.**

**2005 Conference Program**

R. Wuthnow discussed the 2005 conference theme and encouraged participation at the 2005 meetings in Washington D.C. March 17-20. While emphasizing

that the theme of "sociology and public policy" was attractive for a number of reasons, he noted that he also intended the program to be inclusive of a broad range of substantive topics. Among the themes he suggested was attention to the changing historical self-understanding of sociologists of their discipline—from theory building and pure science to greater attention to the links between theory and policy and the application of sociology to real problems in the real world. He also highlighted the strategic nature of Washington, D.C., as a policy center and the possibility of including policy analysts in the program sessions.

R. Wuthnow introduced T. Clydesdale, the 2005 Program Chair, and spoke highly of his organizational skills. T. Clydesdale shared some ideas concerning possible sessions--having mini-conferences organized around such thematic areas as poverty, family and work policy, and health; convening forums in which sociological theorists discussed the implications of sociological theories for social and public policy; incorporating global perspectives; and sessions featuring political sociologists and social movements researchers. He expressed his interest in having these sessions in place by late Spring/early Summer.

R. Wuthnow shared some ideas for celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ESS such as a celebratory banquet featuring previous ESS Presidents and their students. Initial estimates suggest that the cost of a banquet would be in the \$40-\$50 range per person plus cash bar.

During the ensuing discussion the idea of a banquet was strongly supported and some members expressed concern that graduate students be subsidized to attend; one idea floated was to sell "package deal" registrations that would encourage faculty to pay for two students.

The conference program was widely discussed and many ideas were aired. The expanded range of conference formats was strongly welcomed; ideas for master classes, interviews/in-depth conversations and roundtables with distinguished sociologists, and field trips to policy sites in the D.C. area were discussed. Many felt that such formats would be very exciting especially for graduate students. The hope was also expressed that the conference program would avoid a bifurcation between theory and research. Those present also wondered about the likelihood of getting

important policy makers and politicians to attend some of the sessions. Many committee members felt that the D.C. venue offered an important opportunity for sociologists to be briefed by Program Officers from NIH, NSF, NIMH, NIJ and other federal funding agencies about the grant application process as well as about new funding initiatives. One member also noted that the conference could provide a good opportunity for sociologists to meet with Program Officers to educate them about qualitative research and the evaluation of qualitative research projects.

R. Wuthnow pointed out that additional sessions could be organized to commemorate the anniversaries of significant public policy changes such as the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Legislation and of the 1965 immigration laws. There was also some discussion of whether there was a need for commemorative sessions for important sociologists such as the late R. Merton. Members also spoke of the need for greater media coverage of sociological research and the idea of having NPR do a special *Science Friday* program on the impact of social science research was discussed.

Mid-year meeting: After a brief discussion, the Executive Committee's mid-year meeting was scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup> at noon in Princeton.

After some discussion of registration fees and practices, the committee unanimously agreed to increase the registration fees for the 2005 conference by \$5 (from \$45 to \$50 pre-conference registration and from \$55 to \$60, on site registration). Next year's budget estimates will reflect these rates. Concern was expressed that all conference participants should register and be paid-up ESS members. The Executive Office pointed out that this year there was greater success in insuring that conference participants registered for the conference and became members if they were not ESS members prior to the conference.

### **Finances and Executive Office**

C. Renzetti, ESS Treasurer expressed concern that the ESS had no reserve or contingency fund to cover unanticipated expenses (such as the ESS's failure to meet its hotel contracts). This issue was discussed at the 2004 mid-year meeting of the Executive Committee. C. Renzetti pointed out that some other comparable associations had a reserve fund of up to two years' of their operating budget and that associations tend to do well financially by investing

such reserves. J. & E. Mahon suggested that even a smaller reserve fund would be helpful for ESS. After some discussion, a contingency fund proposal was voted on and accepted unanimously by the committee.

The committee then discussed the immediate need to establish an Executive Oversight Committee and an Executive Office Search Committee. After some discussion, it was decided that Nancy Denton, President-elect, would chair the Executive Office Search Committee, with R. Alba and K. Cerulo as members. The members of the Executive Oversight Committee will be P. Moen, P. Stine, and M. Dillon. J. Mahon said that it would facilitate a smooth transition if the new Executive Officer could be named prior to the 2005 meetings so that he/she could shadow him during the conference in order to get firsthand experience of some of the EO's responsibilities.

J. Mahon updated the Executive Committee on software support purchased by ESS that is very useful in planning the conference program. He also noted that the ESS President has financial support for a personal aide to assist in conference planning.

The committee had a lengthy discussion of the financial costs associated with providing AV support during conference proceedings and of possible ways to reduce those costs. The general sense was that professional standards required ESS to make AV support available to conference participants.

J. Mahon noted that the 2004 conference was the first time ESS had a media room. Members expressed the hope that ESS could make a greater effort to engage the attention of reporters during the 2005 meetings.

J. Mahon asked the Committee for their views on the use of the ESS broadcast announcement list. The general consensus was that the web site should be used for posting job openings and other announcements and that the listserv be kept for occasional announcements from the Executive Office in order not to flood members' email boxes.

The new Hess Award was discussed (see Appendix for details of the award announcement). The Executive Committee agreed to appoint ESS members, S. Farrell and P. Stine to the Hess Award Committee; the award will be under the auspices of

the ESS and will be presented during the regular ESS awards presentations.

The Executive Committee unanimously agreed that H. Horwitz should be given a 2-year contract extending his work as conference site locator and book exhibitor organizer for the ESS.

J. Mahon informed the Committee of the implications of the State of New Jersey's interpretation of the federal No Child Left Behind Legislation—there is concern that graduates who major in sociology will no longer be eligible to achieve an elementary school teaching credential. After much discussion about the seriousness of this matter, the Committee mandated R. Wuthnow and J. Mahon to notify the N. J. State's Education office of our concerns. A similar letter will also be sent to other States' Education Officers in Eastern region in regard to their interpretations of the legislation. Information about this matter will also be posted on the ESS website.

### **Other business**

The Committee discussed possible ways to enhance the visibility and attractiveness of the book exhibit at future conferences.

R. Wuthnow adjourned the meeting at 1.55pm.  
Respectfully submitted,  
*Michele Dillon*

## **Bulletin Board**

### **News of Members**

**Mounira Maya Charrad's** book, *States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco* (UC Press, 2001), recently received a fifth award, the Best Book on Politics and History 2003 Greenstone Award (co-winner) from the American Political Science Association. The book previously received awards in Sociology, History, and the Hamilton Award for best book in any field from the University of Texas at Austin.

### **Call for Papers**

**Scott A. Hunt** is the editor-elect for the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. JCE publishes theoretically, methodologically, and substantively significant studies based upon participant-observation, unobtrusive observation, intensive interviewing, and contextualized analysis of discourse as well as examinations of ethnographic methods. Submissions

from all substantive areas and theoretical perspectives are welcomed. Email manuscript submissions (in Word or WordPerfect format) may be sent to [sahunt00@uky.edu](mailto:sahunt00@uky.edu). Hardcopy submissions and all other correspondence should be sent to:

**Scott A. Hunt**, Editor, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, Department of Sociology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0027.

Other contact information: 859-257-4416,

[www.uky.edu/~sahunt00](http://www.uky.edu/~sahunt00) A processing fee of US \$10 must be submitted via a check or money order made payable to the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.

### **Teaching and Learning with Virtual Teams Edited by Sharmila Pixy Ferris & Susan H. Godar, William Paterson University**

We seek papers from educational users of virtual groups/teams for an edited book on *Teaching and Learning with Virtual Teams*, to be published by the Idea Group in 2005. The book will bring together users of virtual groups to explore the challenges that are faced in educational settings. We welcome submissions from a variety of disciplines including, but not limited to, Communication, Business, Education, Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology, the Sciences, and Women's Studies. Our deadline is **June 30, 2004**. For additional information go to: <mailto:Http://essnet.org/callforpapers05.htm>

## **Meetings**

### **Wisconsin Sociological Association September 30 & October 1, 2004**

*Joint Meeting of the Wisconsin Sociological Association and the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Small City* will be convened in Stevens Point, WI. The theme for the meeting -- "Governing the Small City." Presentations on all aspects of small city life, especially governance, are sought. Selected presentations will be published in the conference Proceedings, Volume 15. Contact: **Robert Greene**, President, Wisconsin Sociological Association, [rwgreene@execpc.com](mailto:rwgreene@execpc.com); or **Robert Wolensky**, Center for the Small City, [rwolensk@uwsp.edu](mailto:rwolensk@uwsp.edu). Deadline for commitments to organize sessions or present papers: **May 31, 2004**. For more information see [www.uwsp.edu/polisci/smallcity/Call\\_for\\_Papers.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/polisci/smallcity/Call_for_Papers.htm)

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*Call for Articles for Next Issue: September 1, 2004*

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**Future Meetings**

- 2005 March 17-20, Wyndham Hotel, Washington D.C.
- 2006 Boston
- 2007 Philadelphia